Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) In a dishwasher including a tub having bottom, opposing side, rear and top walls which collectively define a washing chamber adapted to receive and cleanse soiled kitchenware by spraying washing fluid onto the kitchenware from at least one wash arm, a pump and drain assembly comprising:

a housing mounted at an opening provided in the bottom wall of the tub, said housing including an intake chamber and a pumping chamber;

a pumping unit arranged in the pumping chamber, said pumping unit including an impeller for directing washing fluid to the at least one wash arm;

a conduit leading from the housing and fluidly interconnecting the pumping chamber with the at least one wash arm;

a filter chamber adapted to receive washing fluid and entrap soil particles from the washing fluid in the filter chamber while permitting cleansed washing fluid to be directed back into the washing chamber, said filter chamber including an exit port;

a drain exposed to the filter chamber;

a drain pump fluidly connected to the drain for selectively performing a drain operation;

a collection chamber having an inlet portion fluidly connected to the filter chamber and an outlet portion open to the drain, said collection chamber receiving the soil particles;

a flapper valve operatively positioned between the washing chamber, the filter chamber and the drain for regulating flow to the drain from the washing chamber; and

a sealing member arranged at the exit port of the filter chamber for selectively sealing the filter chamber from the drain during portions of the drain operation.

2. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 1, wherein the flapper valve includes an upper rim portion and a plurality of flaps extending from the upper rim portion into the collection chamber.

3. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 2, wherein the flapper valve includes a plurality of distinct flaps, each of said flaps selectively sealing an opening extending between the washing chamber and the collection chamber.

4. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 2, further comprising: a sealing chamber having an inlet portion open to the exit port of the filter chamber and an outlet portion open to the inlet portion of the collection chamber, said flapper valve being positioned at the outlet portion.

5. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 4, wherein the upper rim of the flapper valve extends into the sealing chamber.

6. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 4, wherein the sealing member constitutes a check ball arranged in the sealing chamber, said check ball being adapted to seal against the upper rim portion of the flapper valve during select portions of the drain operation.

7. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 6, wherein the check ball is buoyant.

8. (original) In a dishwasher including a tub having bottom, opposing side, rear and top walls which collectively define a washing chamber adapted to receive and cleanse soiled kitchenware by spraying washing fluid onto the kitchenware from at least one wash arm, a pump and drain assembly comprising:

a housing mounted at an opening provided in the bottom wall of the tub, said housing including an intake chamber and a pumping chamber;

a pumping unit arranged in the pumping chamber, said pumping unit including an impeller for directing washing fluid to the at least one wash arm;

a conduit leading from the housing and fluidly interconnecting the pumping chamber with the at least one wash arm;

a filter chamber adapted to receive washing fluid and entrap soil particles from the washing fluid in the filter chamber while permitting cleansed washing fluid to be directed back into the washing chamber, said filter chamber including an exit port;

a drain exposed to the filter chamber;

a drain pump fluidly connected to the drain for selectively performing a drain operation;

a collection chamber having an inlet portion fluidly connected to the filter chamber and an outlet portion open to the drain, said collection chamber receiving the soil particles;

a flapper valve operatively positioned between the washing chamber, the filter chamber and the drain for regulating flow to the drain from the washing chamber; and

means for sealing the inlet portion of the collection chamber during select portions of the drain operation.

9. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 8, further comprising: a sealing chamber having an inlet open to the exit port of the filter chamber an outlet open to the inlet portion of the collection chamber and a central cavity, said sealing means being arranged within the central cavity.

10. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 9, wherein the flapper valve includes an upper rim portion and a plurality of flaps extending from the rim portion into the drain, said upper rim portion partially extending into the sealing chamber.

11. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 10, wherein the sealing means engages with the upper rim of the flapper valve during select portions of the drain operation to close off the filter chamber from the collection chamber.

12. (original) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 11, wherein the sealing means is a check ball.

13 - 17. (cancelled)

18. (new) In a dishwasher including a tub having bottom, opposing side, rear and top walls which collectively define a washing chamber adapted to receive and cleanse soiled kitchenware by spraying washing fluid onto the kitchenware from at least one wash arm, a pump and drain assembly comprising:

a housing mounted at an opening provided in the bottom wall of the tub, said housing including an intake chamber and a pumping chamber;

a pumping unit arranged in the pumping chamber, said pumping unit including an impeller for directing washing fluid to the at least one wash arm;

a conduit leading from the housing and fluidly interconnecting the pumping chamber with the at least one wash arm;

a filter chamber connected to the conduit and adapted to receive washing fluid from the conduit and entrap soil particles from the washing fluid in the filter chamber while permitting cleansed washing fluid to be directed back into the washing chamber, said filter chamber including an exit port;

a drain exposed to the filter chamber;

a drain pump fluidly connected to the drain for selectively performing a drain operation;

a collection chamber having an inlet portion fluidly connected to the filter chamber and an outlet portion open to the drain, said collection chamber receiving the soil particles;

a flapper valve operatively positioned between the washing chamber, the filter chamber and the drain for regulating flow to the drain from the washing chamber; and

a sealing member arranged at the exit port of the filter chamber for selectively sealing the filter chamber from the drain during portions of the drain operation.

19. (new) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 18, wherein the flapper valve includes an upper rim portion and a plurality of flaps extending from the upper rim portion into the collection chamber.

20. (new) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 19, wherein the flapper valve includes a plurality of distinct flaps, each of said flaps selectively sealing an opening extending between the washing chamber and the collection chamber.

21. (new) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 19, further comprising: a sealing chamber having an inlet portion open to the exit port of the filter chamber and an outlet portion open to the inlet portion of the collection chamber, said flapper valve being positioned at the outlet portion.

22. (new) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 21, wherein the upper rim of the flapper valve extends into the sealing chamber.

23. (new) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 21, wherein the sealing member constitutes a check ball arranged in the sealing chamber, said check ball being adapted to seal against the upper rim portion of the flapper valve during select portions of the drain operation.

24. (new) The pump and drain assembly according to claim 23, wherein the check ball is buoyant.